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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE
SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION
OF THE LICENSE OF

ARTHUR G. BERNSTEIN, LCSW

TO PRACTICE IN
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Social Work Examiners (hereinafter "Board") upon the receipt of a complaint from respondent's former client, S.C., alleging sexual misconduct by respondent over an extended period of time. Respondent appeared at an investigative inquiry before the Board and offered sworn testimony with regard to his treatment of S.C. The Board has also received and reviewed written submissions from respondent with regard to his treatment of S.C. and his admitted sexual relationship with her. The Board has authorized the filing of an Administrative Complaint alleging violations of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (c), (d), (e) and (i).

In the interest of protecting the public in an expeditious manner, the parties have agreed to a resolution of this matter without further proceedings before the Board, and the Board finding that the resolution contained herein is consistent with the public interest;

IT IS ON THIS 24th day of April, 1997,

ORDERED:

1. Respondent, Arthur G. Bernstein, shall surrender his license to practice clinical social work in the State of New Jersey without prejudice to seeking reinstatement thereof in accordance with the terms of this Consent Order.
2. The surrender of licensure set forth in paragraph one shall be effective fifteen days from the entry date of the within Consent Order or April 28, 1997, whichever date shall occur first. This period shall be considered a "winding down" period for Respondent's professional practice. During that time, Respondent shall accept no new clients and undertake no new professional responsibilities but shall make appropriate professional arrangements for the clients remaining in his practice.
3. Respondent shall provide to the Board the names and curriculum vitae of three psychiatrists, licensed in the State of New Jersey, each of whom are willing to undertake the professional evaluation and treatment of Respondent. Upon due inquiry, the Board shall approve one of the three psychiatrists or notify Respondent that he must submit the names of three additional candidates for consideration. The Board retains the right to provide the psychiatrist chosen by the Board with all materials it deems necessary to Respondent's treatment and evaluation. Both Respondent and the chosen psychiatrist must agree, in writing, to the waiver of physician-patient confidentiality with regard to any information demanded by the Board or the Attorney General when and if Respondent makes application for reinstatement pursuant to the terms of this Consent Order.
4. Respondent is granted leave to reapply for licensure upon certification by his treating psychiatrist (as chosen by the Board pursuant to the terms of the Consent Order) that he is both professionally and mentally competent to practice. In

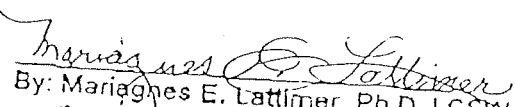
no event shall reapplication for licensure be made earlier than five years from the entry date of the within Consent Order.

5. Any and all psychiatric evaluation and treatment rendered pursuant to this Consent Order shall be the sole financial responsibility of Respondent.

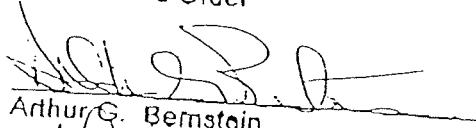
6. Entry of this Consent Order shall resolve the Board's investigation with regard to the Respondent's treatment of S.C.

7. Respondent shall notify all Insurance or HMO plans, in which he is an approved provider, of the entry of this Consent Order and the Voluntary Surrender of his license.

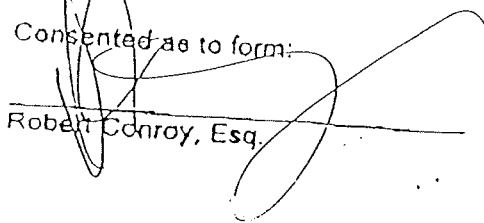
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
EXAMINERS


By: Mariagnes E. Lattimer, Ph.D.-LCSW
Board President

I have read and understood the within Order and agree to be bound by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Board to enter this Order


Arthur G. Bernstein

Consented as to form:


Robert Conroy, Esq.